

with said essential oil-containing herb which maintains said herb in a moist coherent cud during chewing.

2. The chewing composition of claim 1 which further comprises a flavorant and a coloring agent.

3. The chewing composition of claim 2 wherein said flavor component is selected from the group consisting of natural and artificial sweeteners, flavoring agents, spices, fruit flavors, and mixtures thereof.

4. The chewing composition of claim 2 wherein said color component is selected from the group consisting of caramel and other food grade coloring agents.

5. The chewing composition of claim 2 wherein said herb component is present in the composition of the final product in an amount of from about 40% to about 60% by weight, said casing component is present in an amount of from about 8% to about 35% by weight, said flavor component is present in an amount from about 4% to about 26% by weight, and said color component is present in an amount of from about 0.25% to about 5% by weight.

6. The chewing composition of claim 5 wherein said herb component is present in an amount of about 45% to about 55% by weight, said casing component is present in an amount of from about 15% to about 28% by weight, said flavor component is present in an amount of about 8% to about 20% by weight, and said color component is present in an amount of about 0.8% to about 3.0% by weight.

7. The chewing composition of claim 1 wherein said preservative is selected from the group consisting of a salt, powdered dandelion root, echinacea, clover powder, and mixtures thereof.

8. The chewing composition of claim 1 wherein said binder is selected from a group consisting of molasses, corn syrup, hydrogenated starch hydrolysates, and mixtures thereof.

9. The chewing composition of claim 1 wherein said humectant is selected from the group consisting of glycerin, sorbitol, invert sugar, and other moisture-maintaining materials.

10. The chewing composition of claim 1 which further comprises a bio-effecting agent.

11. The chewing composition of claim 10 wherein said bio-effecting agent is selected from the group consisting of mineral supplements, analgesics, antipyretics, antiarrhythmics, ion exchange resins, appetite suppressants, vitamins, anti-inflammatory substances, coronary dilators, cerebral dilators, peripheral vasodilators, anti-infectives, psychotropics, antimanics, stimulants, antihistamines, laxatives, decongestants, gastro-intestinal sedatives, antidiarrheal preparations, anti-anginal drugs, vasodilators, anti-hypertensive drugs, vasoconstrictors and migraine treatments, antibiotics, tranquilizers, antipsychotics, antitumor drugs, anticoagulants and anti-thrombotic drugs, hypnotics, sedatives, anti-emetics, anti-nauseants, anticonvulsants, neuromuscular drugs, hyper and hypoglycaemic agents, thyroid and antithyroid preparations, diuretics, antispasmodics, uterine relaxants, nutritional additives, antiobesity drugs, anabolic drugs, erythropoietic drugs, antiaesthetics, expectorants, cough suppressants, nucleolytics, anti-uncemic drugs and mixtures thereof.

12. A snuff composition comprising a nicotine-free herb containing essential oils capable of being encased and capable of being processed to a texture which is non-injurious to the surface of the oral cavity, said herb being clover, and a casing material which includes a preservative, a binder, and a humectant for combining

with said essential oil-containing herb which maintains said herb in a moist coherent cud in the mouth during use.

13. The snuff composition of claim 12 wherein said herb is hydrophilic and wherein said casing is adsorptive to said herb.

14. The snuff composition of claim 13 wherein said herb is red clover.

15. The snuff composition of claim 12 wherein said herb component is present in the final product in an amount of from about 25% to about 45% by weight, and said casing component is present in an amount of from about 35% to about 65% by weight.

16. The snuff composition of claim 15 wherein said herb component is present in an amount of from about 30% to about 40%, and said casing component is present in an amount of from about 40% to about 60%.

17. The snuff composition of claim 16 wherein said herb component is present in an amount of from about 32% to about 37% by weight, and said casing component is present in an amount of from about 45% to about 55% by weight.

18. The snuff composition of claim 12 wherein said preservative is selected from the group consisting of a salt, powdered dandelion root, echinacea, clove powder and mixtures thereof.

19. The snuff composition of claim 12 wherein said binder is selected from the group consisting of molasses, corn syrup, hydrogenated starch hydrolysates and mixtures thereof.

20. The snuff composition of claim 12 wherein said humectant is selected from the group consisting of glycerin, sorbitol, invert sugar, and other moisture-maintaining materials.

21. The snuff composition of claim 12 which further comprising a flavorant component, a color component, and an additional non-casing herbal binder component.

22. The snuff of claim 21 wherein said flavor component is present in an amount of from about 0.25% to about 7% by weight, said color component is present in an amount of from about 0.25% to about 5% by weight, and said additional binder component is present in an amount of from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight.

23. The snuff composition of claim 22 wherein said flavor component is present in an amount of from about 1.2% to about 5% by weight, said color component is present in an amount of from about 0.8% to about 3% by weight, and said additional binder component is present in an amount of from about 0.8% to about 3% by weight.

24. The snuff composition of claim 23 wherein said flavor component is present in an amount of from about 2.5% to about 4% by weight, said color component is present in an amount of from about 1.0% to about 1.8% by weight, and said additional binder component is present in an amount of from about 0.1% to about 2.0% by weight.

25. The snuff composition of claim 21 wherein said herbal binder component comprises an ingredient selected from the group consisting of gums, slippery elm, mallow, and mixtures thereof.

26. The process of claim 25 wherein said final moisture level is from about 19% to about 21%.

27. The snuff composition of claim 21 wherein said flavor component is selected from the group consisting of natural and artificial sweeteners, flavor agents, fruit flavors, spices, and mixtures thereof.

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[54] HERBAL CHEW AND SNUFF COMPOSITIONS

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[57] ABSTRACT

Compositions and methods for providing tobaccoless herbal chew and snuff products which include an herbal component capable of being encased with a casing material providing a coherent cud in the oral cavity during use. In particular the present invention contemplates the use of a nicotine-free herbal substitute, such as red clover in the case of snuff and dandelion leaf in the case of chew, which can be encased with, among other things, a binder to provide a coherent cud in the mouth during use. As a result of this invention, safe nicotine-free snuff and chew compositions can be provided.

39 Claims, No Drawings

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